Signing of a memorandum of understanding between ONGC and British Petroleum

1386. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and British Petroleum (BP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between ONGC & British Petroleum in April, 1989 for joint evaluation study of the undeveloped hydrocarbon resources of Himalayan foreland area.

Mixing of Alcohol in Petrol

1387. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alcohol is not being mixed in petrol for the past over four decades due to inadequate availability on account of its export; and

(b) what has been the total exports of alocohol during the above period indicating the quantity of alcohol required for admixture with petrol at 10 per cent level as is being done by the United States in order to reduce air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir, Alcohol is not being mixed in petrol due to non-availability of surplus alcohol on a steady basis which should justify investment on blending plants and as use of alcohol as a fuel has not been considered to be optimum utilisation of this industrial raw material.

(b) Export of alcohol is permitted when its availability exceeds the requirement within the country. A total quantity of 1200 lakh litres of alcohol had been allowed for export during 1988 and 1989. The quantity exported in earlier years was insignificant but the actual figures are not available.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to explore the techno-economic feasibility of blending methanol and ethanol with petrol as motor fuel and the quantity of alcohol required for admixture with petrol would depend on the findings of this Committee and Government's decision thereon.

इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड द्वारा बी० आई० पी० कोटे के अंतर्गत जारी किए गए "प्राथमिकता वाउचर"

1389. **श्री सुनील कुमार पटेटनायक** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेन्टर, नई दिल्ली स्थित इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड (विपणन प्रभाग), के कार्यालय द्वारा बी०आई०पी० कोटे के "प्राथमिकता वाउचर" कम्प्यूटर द्वारा मनमाने ढंग से जारी किए जाते हैं जिनमें आवेदकों को आबंटित किए गए वितरक उनके संबंधित क्षेत्रों के नहीं होते हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री ब्रह्म दत्त) : (क) से (ग) यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि वरीयता पत्र सही वितरकों के नाम जारी किये जाए इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन पूरी सावधानी बरतता है फिर भी पिन कोड न होने के कारण अधूरा पता होने के मामले में इनमें कुछ वरीयता पत्र गलती से उन वितरकों के नाम जारी